

The James Wilcox Memorial Award

The James Wilcox Foundation
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SUMMARY OF AWARDS TO DATE: January 2010

The Annual James Wilcox Memorial Award was designed as a living memorial to James' adventurous spirit, and catalyst for the future adventures of others. The award was created to support small teams tackling big dreams in the great mountains of the world - from New England to Nepal. The annual process is a tribute to encouraging excellence and vision in climbing, mountaineering, in our relationships with the land and each other. The annual award is sponsored in partnership with the Ragged Mountain Foundation (RMF.)

First Annual Award: June 17, 2004

The First Annual Award of \$500 was granted to the team of Anthony Anagnostou of New Hampshire, and Adam Nyborg of Montana. Anthony and Adam are former Yale students who share a commitment to climbing and the outdoors. The proposal outlined several projects, located in the Bugaboo Range in British Columbia.

Objective submitted / approved includes the following:

'We plan to spend three weeks in the summer of 2005 climbing the classic big spires in the Bugaboos, including Bugaboo Spire, Snowpatch and Howser Spires. The area would allow a wide variety of routes, from moderate free climbs, to big wall aid routes....We are also interested in traveling to less frequently visited areas such as the Vowell Group, which are more remote and afford a better opportunity for first ascents.'

(for further information, please visit Anthony's 'Electric Ant' website at: <http://www.electricant.net>.)

Award of Special Consideration: June 17, 2004

The RMF Board of Directors & Award Review Committee elected to grant an Award of Special Consideration in addition to the first annual award.

An award of special consideration (\$500) was granted to the 2004 Connecticut Everest Expedition. Team leaders: Anne Parmenter and Lakhpa Sherpa. Members of the team: Chuck Boyd, Gheorge Dijmarescu, Bill Driggs, Michael Kudas and Dave Watson. As all of you are certainly aware, the expedition was an extremely unique adventure, with great significance and historic reference for the state - not to mention the CT climbing community. The inception of this grassroots effort clearly personified the mission of the Award.

Note: Mount Everest, is the highest mountain on Earth, as measured by the height above sea level of its summit, 8,848 meters (29,029 ft). The mountain, which is part of the Himalaya range in High Asia, is located on the border between Sagarmatha Zone, Nepal, and Tibet, China.

Second Annual Award: June 21, 2005

The Wilcox Award Review Committee voted to grant the Second Annual James Wilcox Award to Zachary Hampton, for his proposed expedition to Mount Rainier, Washington.

(Additional Team Members: Walter R. Hampton, Jr. (Zachary's father), Gary St. Amand and Robert Stauble.)

Objective presented / approved as follows:

'I plan to climb Mount Rainier in Washington State. This is an important challenge for me - it will be my first major expedition. (I am 16 years old.) This grant would allow me to prepare, equip and fully participate in this trip, which I envision as an important step in preparing for my ultimate goal of climbing Mount Everest. Mount Rainier is significant because it is a vastly underestimated objective in and of itself. We will climb it in good style, guiding ourselves and being sensitive to our impact on the mountain.'

Third Annual Award: June 22, 2006

The Wilcox Award Review Committee voted to grant the third Annual James Wilcox Award to Albert J. Carilli, for his proposed 3-person ascent of the Prow, Washington Column, Yosemite Valley.

(Additional Team Members: Matt Rugens and Steve Nelson.)

The climbing objective presented / approved as follows:

- 1) To complete the last big wall climb of my career at the age of 68.
- 2) To introduce a younger climber to big wall climbing
- 3) To conduct a successful 3-person ascent of the Prow, Washington Column, Yosemite Valley.

Note: We were pleased and honored that the Hartford Courant published an article related to the Wilcox Award on July 3, 2006. Kelly Sheehan, a journalist with the Hartford paper, wrote a wonderful article featuring Mr. Carilli, entitled: 'Rock Climber Reaches For The Ultimate Challenge.' The article included photos by staff photographer Michael McAndrews, featuring Al on Rattlesnake Mountain in Farmington, CT.

Fourth Annual Award: June 21, 2007

The Wilcox Award Review Committee voted to grant the fourth Annual James Wilcox Award to Peter A. Schmitt, for a proposed ascent of the Grand Teton via Exum Direct, Jackson, Wyoming.

(Additional Team Members: Tom Bendzinski, Jason Parent and Javier Ivern.)

The climbing objective presented / approved as follows:

- 1) Grand Teton via Exum Direct – To include Lower Exum Ridge.
- 2) Additional Routes on Grand, to include: Direct Petzoldt Ridge, Underhill Ridge.
- 3) Additional Routes on West wall of Disappointment Peak (Irene's Arete, West Face, others.) Symmetry Spire, and time permitting, other peaks such as Mount Moran and/or Middle Teton.

Fifth Annual Award: June 19, 2008

The Wilcox Award Review Committee voted to grant the fifth Annual James Wilcox Award to Chuck Boyd, (Suffield, CT) for a proposed ascent of K2, via the Cesen Route (a direct variation to the Abruzzi Ridge) and to ski sections of this route.

(Additional Team Members: Paul Alberti, MD – Madison, CT; Dan McCann, Park City, Utah; Andy Selters, Bishop, CA and Dave Watson, Minneapolis, MN.)

The climbing objective(s) presented / approved as follows:

1. Preparation route to acclimatize: Summit Broad Peak - First ski descent via West Ridge.
2. Ascend K2 via Cesen variation
3. D. McCann and D. Watson: Ski sections of the route from the summit pyramid to advanced base camp, on telemark skis.
4. Photographer A. Selters, will document the expedition through still photography and video.

Note: K2 is the second-highest mountain on Earth (after Mount Everest). With a peak elevation of 8,611 meters (28,251 ft), K2 is part of the Karakoram segment of the Himalayan range, and is located on the border^[1] between Pakistan's northern territories,^[2] and the Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County of Xinjiang, China.

Sixth Annual Award: June 18, 2009

The Wilcox Award Review Committee voted to grant the sixth Annual James Wilcox Award to Michael Verdone (Louisville, CO) for proposed ascent(s) within the Waddington Range of the Coast Mountains, British Columbia.

(Additional Team Members: Christopher Moriarty & Alexis Alloway, Durango, CO.)

The climbing objective presented / approved as follows:

Fly (via helicopter) into the Waddington Range of the Coast Mountains. Objectives as follows:

1. Ascend the North-West summit of Mount Waddington
2. Depending on conditions, the team will attempt ascents of several notable peaks:
→ Mount Combatant, Mount Tiedemann, Mount Hickson, and the Serra Group.
3. Ascend Mount Bell - The 'Remote Group' (on the periphery of the range.) Further attempt to establish first ascents as time & circumstance will allow, in the area.

Application Information:

Applications for the James Wilcox Memorial Award may be submitted on a rolling basis as follows:
Electronically (preferred) to: jwilcoxclimb@aol.com or via US mail to:

The James Wilcox Memorial Award, c/o Julia Zaslow Wilcox, 109 Warrenton Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Award recipients shall be announced each year in June, during the Annual Meeting of the Ragged Mountain Foundation.

Questions may be submitted electronically to: jwilcoxclimb@aol.com

Please refer to additional information available on line at:

Annual James Wilcox Climbing Award – Website on Face Book Causes:

<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/273175?m=3f1cca43>